




On the Radar


On the Radar is your fortnightly hub for essential information, updates and reminders. In this edition, Paws in Pages comes to Waipā libraries, autumn leaf fall collection and more disruption ahead on the Waikato Expressway.

Save the date! Upcoming events and notable dates



Anzac services
district-wide

April 25-27, for full details,
[click here.](#)



Waikato Water Done
Well event

Sir Don Rowlands Centre
Noon-4.15pm, Weds, May 7

Community Services

Park operations

Dead fish have been found in Lake Te Koo Utu over the last two days – staff have removed around 90 from the lake edge since Wednesday morning, with more visible but out of reach.

The lake water quality is monitored each month, and while the cause of death is not yet known, early advice from Waikato Regional Council scientist Mat Allen is that it could be related to a flush of contaminants/nutrients into the lake from the recent heavy rain following the dry summer. So far, the fish we have retrieved are non-native, pest species.

Staff have implemented an action plan, based on previous experience with mass fish deaths at Lake Ngā Roto. Mana whenua have been notified, and a contractor will use a boat to retrieve dead fish from the centre of the lake, beginning this afternoon (Thursday, April 24). We will monitor and remove more as needed over the weekend.

This will break the cycle of contamination, and reduce the risks of potential harm to birdlife.

We are advising the community via our usual communication channels, and will get some signage up at the lakeside this afternoon.



Paws in Pages is coming to Waipā! Reading to dogs is a recognised therapy programme used around the world and helps children with both reading ability and confidence. Reading aloud is an important part of learning literacy, but many tamariki and rangatira struggle with fears of being judged or laughed at for their mistakes. The solution – read to a calm and friendly dog instead! Children will be able to register for a fortnightly 20-minute reading session (which includes a safety briefing), where they can sit and read to a well-behaved and gentle dog from Canine Friends Pet Therapy. A dog handler and library staff member will facilitate the session.

There are many benefits for children, and you can learn more about the programme [here](#).

- It can help children relax while reading
- It can help oral fluency which leads to better literacy
- It improves confidence and teaches safe ways to interact with dogs
- It is less intimidating than reading to people as dogs don't judge, laugh or criticise
- It allows children to proceed at their own pace

The programme will start at the Cambridge Library from Wednesday, April 30 and we plan to then roll it out to Te Awamutu Library.

You can learn more about Canine Friends therapy dogs [here](#).

Te Awamutu War Memorial Park

We're **replacing the bollards around the netball courts** at Te Awamutu War Memorial Park. The tender closed on April 9, and the contract is expected to be awarded within the next week, with work to start in early May.

The same contractor will also install new bollards along the Racecourse Road frontage to restrict vehicle access to the park from here – as this has previously caused damage to the reserve.

Partners and stakeholders have been notified via the Te Awamutu War Memorial Park Partners and Stakeholders Forum, and we've been in touch directly with the Te Awamutu Netball Centre. To ensure

- This information is provided from Waipā District Council
- Uninterrupted pedestrian access will be maintained at all times between the carpark and the netball courts.
 - From 3pm onwards on weekdays, at least 75% of the carpark will remain available for netball court users.
 - On weekends, the entire carpark will remain fully open and accessible to netball court users.

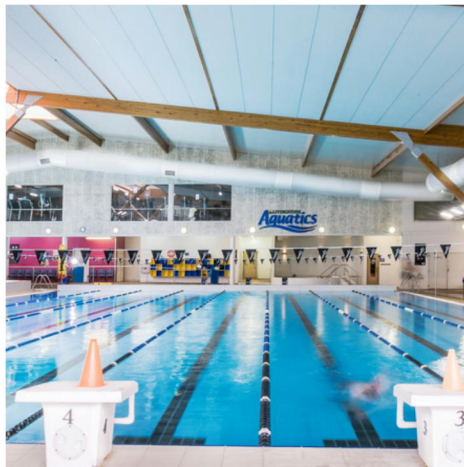
Community assets

We're working with Waipā Community Facilities Trust (Go Waipā) over the potential **renewal of naming rights** for the Te Awamutu Events Centre, stadium and swimming complex.

Previous agreements with Trust Waikato and ASB have lapsed, and the agreement that Go Waipā took up with Livingstone Building NZ Ltd for the aquatic centre expires next February.

We are writing to Go Waipā to confirm the approach and process, as our service agreement states that any naming rights agreements are Council's responsibility to facilitate.

The Perry Aquatic Centre naming rights are current until 2030.



Reserves planning



Lake Ngā Roto Constructed Wetland Maintenance

Over the past month, we've been **cleaning up the constructed treatment wetland** on the north-eastern side of Lake Ngā Roto. The system has a series of strategically planted ponds, both deep and shallow, which remove sediment and reduce nutrient flow from adjoining farmland, which helps to protect water quality within the lake.

The work included removing sediment and cleaning the various connecting channels. We also removed the outflowing culverts and replaced them with footbridges which will be easier to maintain, and will enable better waterflow. This is the first time we've carried out maintenance on the system since it was installed in 2016.

The neighbouring farm, which is managed by [REDACTED] is likely to see improved drainage as a result.

The draft Lake Ngā Roto Reserve Management Plan will provide further guidance and direction to work with other farmers, lake users and biodiversity partners to improve water treatment surrounding the lake. Public consultation on the draft plan closed on Friday, April 18 and is now under review with hearings scheduled for late May or early June.

Transport



Waikato Expressway roadworks

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi has let us know of more road repairs that will cause disruption on the Cambridge section of SH1 Waikato Expressway over the next few weeks.

Tirau Road interchange - Sunday, May 4 to Friday, May 9.

There will be Stop/Go management and on- and off-ramp closures between the SH1 Tirau Road interchange and Hickey Road each night from 8pm to 5am. Detours will be in place to use the Victoria Road interchange.

Victoria Road interchange – Sunday, May 11 to Thursday, May 15.

The northbound on-ramp from Victoria Road to SH1 will be closed between 8pm and 5am each night. Light vehicles will be detoured via the Cambridge West interchange. Heavy and large vehicles will be detoured via SH1B and SH26 to re-join SH1.

Emergency services will be given priority through the worksites. Both works are weather dependent and updates can be found on the NZTA Journey Planner: nzta.govt.nz/traffic

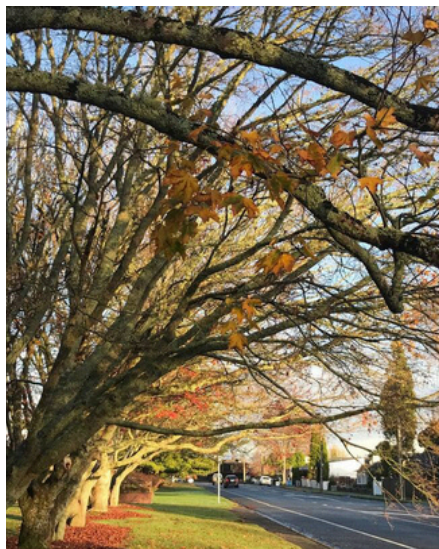
Autumn leaf collection

On Monday, April 28, we will start our **annual leaf collection for designated streets in Cambridge, Te Awamutu and Kihikihi** that are affected by fallen leaves from our beautiful mature street trees. The collection will run through to the end of July and will be carried out by council's street cleaning contractor, Eco Maintenance.

We are advising residents on the designated streets to:

- Heap fallen leaves in a pile on the grass berm in front of their properties, close to the kerb, two days before their collection day.
- Remove sticks and branches from the piles and ensure leaves are not swept into the streets or drains to avoid flooding.

We're also reminding them that we can't collect piles that include general garden waste, prunings or lawn clippings.



[More info and street maps can be viewed here.](#)

Cambridge Road (Cambridge to Te Awamutu) repairs

Further repairs will take place on **Cambridge Road between McLarnon Road and Cox Road** from Monday, April 28 to Friday, May 9 between the hours of 9am and 3pm each day.

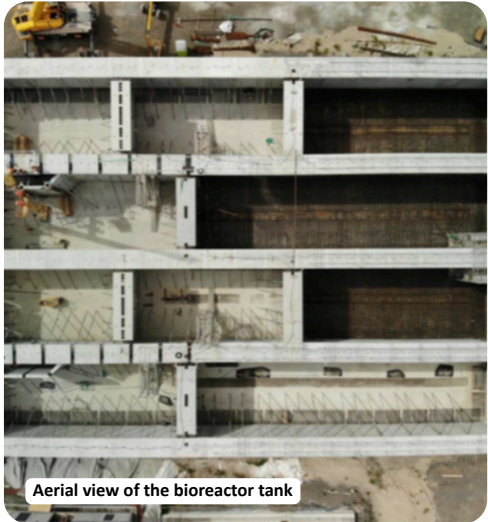
There will be Stop/Go traffic management in place. Delays are expected; however, the contractors will complete the work in stages to minimise disruption as far as possible.

Waters

Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant

It’s been a busy couple of months on the project, with significant progress on site including the bioreactor, plant building, chemical area and lift pump station. We’re implementing a communications strategy to keep the community regularly updated now that the construction work is nearing completion, with the main physical works on track to be finished next March.

We’ve stood up a Project Control Group to oversee the final stages of construction through to when the new plant is commissioned late next year, with the first meeting held on Tuesday, April 22. Part of its responsibilities are to ensure effective communication across the project’s progress.



Strategy

We actively monitor the changes to legislation being proposed by Central Government, and want to keep elected members across the latest changes, submissions and directions.

The table below lists the changes that have occurred over the last fortnight.

Item Name	Description	Status comments
Open for Submissions		
<u>Proposed Emergency Management Bill (2025)</u>	The National Emergency Management Agency is proposing a new Bill to strengthen disaster resilience and emergency management. The proposed policy objectives for the new Bill are to: strengthen the participation of communities and iwi Māori in emergency management provide for clear responsibilities at the national, regional, and local levels enable a higher minimum standard of emergency management minimise disruption to essential services make sure agencies have the tools to do their jobs effectively when an emergency happens.	Submissions now open - close 13 May. Staff recommendation – likely to submit.
<u>Sale and Supply of Alcohol (sale of Alcohol on the morning of Anzac Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday and Christmas Day) Amendment Bill</u>	Bill would extend the sale of alcohol to those four named days.	Staff recommendation – do not submit. Submissions open - close 22 May 2025.
Updates		
<u>Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill</u>	Bill to amend or remove references to te Tiriti principles from legislation	Second Reading not agreed to - the Bill won't proceed any further in Parliament.
<u>Proposed product stewardship regulations for agrichemicals, their containers, and farm plastics</u>	The Government is seeking feedback on proposed regulations to enable a national take-back and recycling scheme for agrichemicals, their containers, and farm plastics.	Previously advised that Council was submitting. No longer submitting due to resourcing issues. Encouraging local community to make their own submissions.
Early feedback open		
<u>Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 - Proposed Amendment Bill</u>	Review of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 with an economic development lens.	Submissions now open for informal feedback - close May 23. An amendment bill is expected to be enacted in 2026. Staff recommendation – Keep watching brief, possible implications for rating.

Media releases

[April 22: Time to enrol, Waipā](#)

[April 17: New accessible carpark for Leamington Cemetery](#)

[April 17: Council proposes fee adjustments for 2025-27: we want your feedback](#)

[April 17: Take breaks, have a Kit Kat, prevent driver fatigue this long weekend](#)

[April 16: Cricket umpiring legend honoured in Te Awamutu's Walk of Fame](#)

[April 11: Adjusted timetables to improve bus services in Waipā](#)

[April 11: Cambridge Connections reset lead announced](#)

Media clippings

[Passenger numbers soar as bus services improve](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 23 Apr 2025, 12:00 am

[Pirongia kids score new dirt jump zone](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 23 Apr 2025, 12:00 am

[Students send environment message](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 23 Apr 2025, 12:00 am

[Te Awamutu cricket legend John Hastie inducted in local Walk of Fame](#)

New Zealand Herald • Internet • 22 Apr 2025, 3:35 pm

[Council fees, charges](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 21 Apr 2025, 12:00 am

[Festival cash handed out](#)

Cambridge News • Viv Posselt • Internet • 17 Apr 2025, 7:00 am

[Leafy Cambridge: great town, shame about the traffic](#)

Waikato Times • Richard Walker • Internet • 17 Apr 2025

[Clock ticks down to water decision](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner & Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 17 Apr 2025, 9:03 am

[Holistic approach needed for maunga](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 17 Apr 2025, 10:05 am

[Students at climate summit](#)

Cambridge News • Jesse Wood • Internet • 16 Apr 2025, 5:10 pm

[Ōtorohanga picks its preferred model](#)

Waikato Times • Libby Wilson • Newspaper • 16 Apr 2025, 12:00 am

[New start for troubled Cambridge Connections](#)

Waikato Times • Madeleine Powers • Newspaper • 16 Apr 2025, 12:00 am

This information is provided from Waipā District Council

[Cambridge Connections:](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 16 Apr 2025, 12:00 am

[Water restrictions flushed after rain](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 16 Apr 2025, 12:00 am

[Cambridge Connections reset lead appointed](#)

Waikato Business News • Internet • 11 Apr 2025, 4:32 pm

[Water done well backed](#)

kingcountrynews.co.nz • Internet • 10 Apr 2025, 12:45 pm

[Quarry hearing adjourned](#)

Waikato Business News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 10 Apr 2025, 12:18 pm

['Gagging' orders hit two boards](#)

Cambridge News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 10 Apr 2025, 1:01 pm

[Getting reconnected](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 10 Apr 2025, 8:02 am

['Arbitrage' deal makes a loss](#)

Cambridge News • Peter Nicholl • Internet • 10 Apr 2025, 7:01 am

[Library fully booked](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 10 Apr 2025, 5:06 am

[No meals for a meow...](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 10 Apr 2025, 10:01 am

[New seats for old at the park](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 10 Apr 2025, 8:02 am

[Waikato councils want road tolls](#)

Cambridge Edition • Stephen Ward • Newspaper • 09 Apr 2025, 12:00 am

[Roundabout completion step closer](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 09 Apr 2025, 12:00 am

[Wastewater plant ahead of schedule](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 09 Apr 2025, 12:00 am

[Consultation conundrum for Thames Coromandel](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 09 Apr 2025, 12:00 am

[Jump zone on way](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 08 Apr 2025, 12:00 am